

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 19 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 19 can be found at least in paragraphs [0036], [0039] and [0040]. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Severson at the personal interview held June 1, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 4, 5, 14, and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claims and any intervening claims. However, Applicant submits that the pending claims are allowable for at least the following reasons.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6-12 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP A 05-201552 to Inoue.¹ This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed by Examiner Severson during the personal interview on June 1, 2007, Inoue fails to disclose a sheet feed cassette that includes a "slide member that slides within a slide opening of a case in a width direction of the recording mediums," as recited in independent claims 1 and 19.

The Office Action equates the spigot leg 36b of Inoue to the claimed slide member. However, as discussed and agreed to during the personal interview, the spigot leg 36b of Inoue cannot be equated to the claimed slide member because the spigot leg 36b does not slide within a slide opening of a case in a direction of recording mediums. On the contrary,

¹ Applicant notes that although claim 13 is not cited under this rejection, it is substantively rejected on page 3, line 2 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant interprets the rejection as including claim 13.

the spigot leg 36b of Inoue can only be removably inserted into the engagement holes 31, as show in Fig. 8.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 19 are patentable over Inoue. Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3, 6-13 and 16-18, and claim 20 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1 and 19, from which they respectively depend, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below

Respectfully submitted,



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